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ABSTRACT

This overview of the situation in library cooperation in the German Democratic Republic with regard to the legal fundamentals for library work emphasizes the role of the head offices of librarianship, which are responsible for the coordination and direction of development. The existing structure and networks (territorial and special) are also reviewed with special attention to the role of the Library Association of the German Democratic Republic. The need for closer cooperation between libraries and centers of information is identified. (Author/JEG)

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Bibliotheksverband der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik
Library Association of the German Democratic Republic

Co-operation of libraries to ensure the satisfaction of requirements in information and literature by the broad masses of people
Development and experiences in the German Democratic Republic

U S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
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1. Introduction

The "International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions" (IFLA) was very successfull in the last years on the way towards a world-wide organization. Library associations and institutions from more than 1oo countries all over the world are members of IFLA today and the problems of library work in the developing countries are on the top of the "Medium Term Programme" for the period till 198o, passed by the council in 1976. There are a number of very important special activities within IFLA: The creation of the Division for Regional Activities and of Sections on Asia, Africa and Latin America, personal and financial grants and the organization of seminars for librarians from developing countries since 1971.

But the problems of developing countries are also present at the programmes of the other divisions and sections of IFLA, for instance at National Libraries, University Libraries, Public Libraries, Library Buildings and Equipment or Conservation. The efforts of IFLA are an important contribution to the implementation of the NATIS-programme, now a part of UNESCO's general information programme.

The seminar at Antwerp you can find also in UNESCO's programme and budget for 1977/78 and it is a good example for the co-operation between IFLA and UNESCO in the field of library development.

2. Co-operation in librarianship

The theme of the seminar, "Resource Sharing of Libraries in Developing Countries", is very important for the further development in this field. The problem of "resource sharing" is in an extensive sense to arrange in the complex of "Co-operation" and at the same time an attempt to make this idea more practicable. J.S.Parker quotes in his article "Regional Co-operation in Library Services: an opportunity for developing countries" (1) the definition from the "Oxford English Dictionary": "co-operation means working together to the same end, purpose or effect" (2) and notices, that in this most exalted sense each form of international librarianship may be said to involve co-operation. Parker demands: "The most important implication ... lies in the need to establish full agreement, between all the participants in an proposed co-operative, and before co-operative activity begins, on the exact aims and objectives of the proposed activity."(3)

Co-operation is to develop either on a national (territorial, local, specialized) or on international (world-wide, regional, specialized) level. In the "Lexikon des Bibliothekswesens" ("Encyclopaedia of librarianship"), 2nd edition, we can find the following definition: "Library co-operation between organizations is the conscious, planned, organized, for a definite or undefinite number of tasks arranged by contract voluntary team-work of two or several libraries or with other institutions under protection of independence to reach a greater effectiveness. This co-operation can take place

by division of labour, co-ordination, delivery of seperate tasks or other forms." (4) We regard co-operation as a premise and an objective necessity to strengthen the library system of our republic and as a basis for the universal satisfaction of requirements in literature and information of the socialist society. Team-work and co-operation are important foundations of life and effective factors of growth of our society.

The socialist conditions of production, the socialist property in means of production and the common fundamental interests of all citizens are a good foundation for the development of co-operation, also in library work.

3. Legal fundamentals for library work in the GDR

On May 31st, 1968, a Library Act (the "Bibliotheksverordnung") was passed by the cabinet of the GDR. This Library Act arranged for all libraries under the control of the state, the executive and economic organs and institutions the fundamental questions of library work. The act orients on the development of various relations of co-operation to the efficient utilization of library capacities. In paragraph 10 ("socialist team-work") you can find the emphasises of co-operation. "The making of various relations of co-operation is to concentrate on

- the harmonizing of profiles and local distribution of the bookstock and adequate acquisition
- the available-making of the bookstock of scientific and

special literature by means of union catalogues and the systematic use of new forms of availability

- the extension and acceleration of inter-library loan to ensure the maximum use of the bookstocks
- the commom planning and development of bibliographical work and the mutual support in the field of information activities
- common arrangements to extend publicity work
- exchange of experiences in all fields of organization, technology and methodology of library work."(5)

The Library Act was completed by a number of regulations. In connection with library co-operation are of special importance:

The 5th regulation "Tasks, way of labour and structure of the Public libraries under the control of local administrations" .

The 6th regulation "Tasks and way of labour of the General research libraries of districts".

the 7th regulation "Tasks and way of labour of Central special libraries".

The questions of co-ordination and co-operation take a central place in these documents. So you will find in the 5th regulation for the public libraries:

"The libraries take part in collective works of libraries. They develop and use ... various possibilities of co-ordination and co-operation with research and special libraries." (6).

There are also well defined decisions in the 6th and 7th

regulations on this matter. In this connection we have to mention the role of the head offices of librarianship in the GDR. They are responsible for the co-ordination and direction of development in very important spheres. So work

- the Central Institute of Librarianship ("Zentralinstitut für Bibliothekswesen") as head office for scientific-methodological work, library planning, development of systems, structure, formation of territorial networks, statistic and standards
- the Methodological Centre for Research Libraries ("Methodisches Zentrum für wissenschaftliche Bibliotheken") as head office for special libraries and special library networks
- the "Deutsche Bücherei Leipzig" as head office for bibliography and bibliographical work
- the "Deutsche Staatsbibliothek Berlin" as head office for inter-library loan and union catalogues
- the Institute of Library and Information Science of Berlin Humboldt University ("Institut für Bibliothekswissenschaft und wissenschaftliche Information der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin") as head office for library theory and research.

4. The territorial and special library networks

In conformity with the Library Act and the regulations, issued on its foundation, libraries of the same type or function in territorial or specialized domains join together. There are two kinds of networks: territorial and

special library networks. They complement and cover each other.

2.1. Territorial networks

The public libraries (community libraries, rural central libraries, city libraries, city and subdistrict libraries, sub-district libraries, city and district libraries and General research libraries of districts) form the part of librarianship of the GDR with territorial efficiency. They are organized in local (city, Community) library networks and work together in territorial (district, sub-district) library networks.

The full-time and the part-time directed community libraries in the sub-districts are working together mutually, with the rural central libraries and with the city and sub-district libraries in a library network to supply the people with literature and information. This co-operation includes

- "the utilization of bookstocks of central rural libraries and city and sub-district libraries by the libraries in the sub-district (sub-district inter-library loan - "Kreisleihverkehr")
- the acquisition of literature by the city and sub-district libraries for the libraries in the sub-district and the processing of literature for lending (centralized processing - "Zentrale Einarbeitung")
- making available the reference and information means by the city and sub-district libraries for the libraries in the sub-district
- arrangements of qualification and exchange of experiences

for the directors and workers in the libraries." (7)

The concrete methods and the extent of co-operation, including the sharing of financial resources and the mutual support of library staff, are regulated by contract. The city and sub-district library is responsible for the organisation of co-operation in each case.

All the professional directed full-time libraries of the district are working together in the library network of the district

- "for the mutual utilisation of the bookstocks in scientific and specialised literature and, if necessary, for the harmonising of acquisition,
- in common arrangements of methods of information on the bookstock, of information activities, library and literature publicity work,
- for the improvement of inter-library loan and
- for the realisation of common objects of rationalisation."(8)

The city and district library or the General research library of the district is in this case the centre of co-operation. It is a centre of bookstock and of inter-library loan for all the public libraries in the district. There are also local library networks in the large cities of our republic. A main library as a centre, a number of urban district libraries and delivery stations are belonging to it. The main library runs the work and development of the whole network: acquisition, local distribution of bookstock, availability of the bookstock, organisation of work, building and equipment, publicity work.

4.2. Special library networks

The special library networks complete the territorial networks in the GDR. They will be created in several fields of economy, science and engineering, social sciences, culture and education to meet the demands with respect to special requirements in literature and information.

In each field a special library is acting. It is responsible for the co-operation of libraries in the special branch on the base of contracts and it does scientific-methodological work too. The harmonised policy of acquisitions and forming of bookstock are based on the "Plan of subject specialisation of libraries in the GDR" (Sammelschwerpunktplan der Bibliotheken der DDR).

The planning and development of special library networks is connected directly with the development of information networks in the appropriate fields. The co-operation and co-ordination between library and information services is a good example for the realisation of a national information policy, recommended by the concept of NATIS.

Special library networks of different structure already exist in the fields of military, agriculture and food, medicine, communications and mechanical engineering.

5. The tasks of the Library Association of the GDR

The Library Association of the GDR (Bibliotheksverband der DDR), founded in 1964, is the social organisation of libraries and other institutions of librarianship, bibliology and information. It belongs to the main tasks of the association to

promote and develop the common work all of the libraries and its workers to meet the demands of the developed socialist society and to support the various forms of co-operation and exchange of experiences.

Therefore the Library Association orients in its "Long Term Programme" on the following aims:

- "promotion of all forms of socialist co-operation in librarianship, of working groups and bodies where representatives of the branches collaborate. Support of the head offices of important branches of librarianship
- continuation of systematic development of special library networks and Central special libraries, taking into consideration the improvement of information networks
- development and stabilization of territorial library networks." (9)

The Library Association of the GDR gave important impulses to the development of library work by its 2nd conference in 1969 "Socialist team-work and relations of co-operation in librarianship of the GDR" and its 4th general meeting in 1970 "Formation of territorial and special library networks".

The district groups and the sections are besides the subject-oriented committees the most important working organs of the association. The district groups unite all the members of the appropriate district and work together with state and social organs, the libraries and institutions for the promotion of management and planning of library work.

They contribute to the development of library networks in the Netherlands.

The sections unite about ten special libraries and information centres, organized in the Library Association. There are a lot of important tasks, e.g.

- "Influence on the creation and work of special library networks in harmony with the branches of industry, economy, science, education and culture and the information networks
- promotion of all forms of sustained consultation, stimulation and active support of various forms of co-operation and exchange of experiences within and beyond the sections
- propagation of library work within the different fields and promotion of co-operation of these libraries with political, economic, scientific and cultural organizations and institutions in the NL and with the spheres of the information system." (12)

At present exist the following sections
Medical libraries (with the sub-section Patients' Libraries),
Technical libraries, Agricultural libraries, Social Science libraries (with the sub-sections Pedagogical libraries, Literature-Language-Arts, State and Law, Library, as well as Economic Science).

5. The co-operation with information and documentation

The Library Act of the NL refers to the necessity of a close co-operation between libraries and centres of information and documentation. This co-operation is determined by the

common tasks for users. Both libraries and information centres have to satisfy the information need of the user in a favourable way. To realize this good conditions are existing both in the territorial and in the special library and information networks as well. The Library Association contributes by creating effective forms of co-operation above all by its sections.
In this respect a colloquy, held in 1976, gave important impulses for further development.

7. Final remarks

The present paper gives only a survey of the actual situation in library co-operation in the GDR, especially with regard to the legal fundamentals, the structure and networking and the role of the Library Association. I will give further information in the discussion at Antwerp about the following problems

- co-ordinated acquisition (plan of subject specialization)
- centralized cataloguing
- inter-library loan (national and territorial)
- communities of library co-operation at local and territorial level.

8. Literature

(1) J.S. Parker. Regional Co-operation in Library Services: an opportunity for developing countries. IFLA Journal 2(1976) 1, p.1-33.

(2) ibid., p. 1.

(3) ibid., p. 7.

(4) Lexikon des Bibliothekswesens. Ed. by Horst Kunze and Gotthard Rückl under contribution by Margit Mille and Hans Riedel. 2nd, new rev. ed. Vol. 1. Leipzig 1974, col. 823.

(5) Bibliotheksverordnung.
In: Die Bibliotheksverodnung der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik und mit ihr in engem Zusammenhang stehende rechtliche Regelungen und Vereinbarungen. Berlin 1973, p. 11.

(6) ibid., p. 3o.

(7) ibid.

(8) ibid., p. 31.

(9) Aufgaben, Wirksamkeit und Entwicklung des Bibliotheksverbandes der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik bei der weiteren Gestaltung des sozialistischen Bibliothekswesens in der DDR. Langfristiges Programm. Berlin 1975, p. 16.

(1o) Kurt Brückmann, Wilfried Kern. Entwicklung und Arbeitsweise der Sektionen des Bibliotheksverbandes der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik.
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